

# NEWS THE CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART

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## ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE: THE PERFECT MOMENT

**Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Moment**, a retrospective exhibition of one of America's most important photographers, will be on view at The Corcoran Gallery of Art from July 1 through September 3, 1989.

**The Perfect Moment** offers an illuminating and complete documentation and examination of the artist's entire career, providing an unedited overview of the maturation of his artistic expression through a diverse range of images. The exhibition is comprised of more than 150 works dating from 1969 to 1988 and focuses on Mapplethorpe's three major areas of interest: still life, nudes, and portraits. Included in the exhibition are Mapplethorpe's portraits of such leading visual and performing artists as Cindy Sherman, Andy Warhol, Lucy Ferry, David Hockney, Patti Smith, and Laurie Anderson. The entire "XYZ" portfolio is also included, a series of photographs juxtaposing explicit erotica with flower still-lives. Mapplethorpe viewed the portfolio as a philosophical statement that bound together the tawdry and the elevated aspects of sensuality into a concise statement.

**Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Moment** was organized by the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania. In her catalogue essay, curator and ICA director Janet Kardon notes, "Mapplethorpe captures the peak of bloom, the apogee of power, the most seductive instant, the ultimate present that stops time and delivers the perfect moment into history." This notion is amply illustrated by the silver prints, platinum prints on paper and canvas, recent color photographs, Polaroids, unique photocollages with

fabric, and sculptural objects that the artist created in the two decades of his career.

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive 136-page illustrated catalogue with essays by curator David Joselit, critic Kay Larson and Kardon. A dedicatory poem by alternative musician Patti Smith serves as a poignant introduction in light of Mapplethorpe's death from AIDS in March.

This exhibition was organized by the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania and has been made possible in part by grants from Mr. & Mrs. Harold A. Honickman; the Dietrich Foundation; the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, Inc.; the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. The Corcoran presentation is made possible in part by a grant from the Glen Eagles Foundation.

The Corcoran Gallery of Art is located at 17th Street & New York Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended hours on Thursday until 9 p.m. Admission to the museum is free. Admission to the exhibition is \$3.00.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Public Relations, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, 17th Street & New York Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 Tel: (202) 638-3211